



**Seattle City Council  
Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee  
City of Seattle**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 16, 2012

**TO:** Councilmember Bruce Harrell, Chair  
Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee  
Seattle City Council

**FROM:** Marta Idowu, Commission Liaison  
Seattle Office for Civil Rights

**SUBJECT:** Seattle Women's Commission 2012 Work Plan  
Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 2:00 PM City Hall 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Presenters:** Jamila Johnson, Chair, Seattle Women's Commission  
Julie Nelson, Director, Seattle Office for Civil Rights

**Purpose of Meeting:**

**Presentation and discussion of Seattle Women's Commission 2012 work plan – in addition to sharing their work plan for the year, they will be interested in hearing any of your priority areas of interest.**

**Highlights of SWC work plan:**

Seattle Women's Commission top priorities for 2012:

1. Violence prevention
2. Economic opportunities
3. Healthcare disparities

**Project Background, Analysis and Summary:** The 2012 work plan includes:

**Violence Prevention:**

- Support training of Seattle Police Department to enforce Domestic Violence Protection Orders;
- Advocate for continued City funding of programs to educate landlords on Domestic Violence;
- Seek funding for additional FTEs for sexual assault victim's advocates;
- Advocate for changes in the tenant screening industry to ensure domestic violence survivors are not unlawfully denied housing and seek the City's support on this issue;
- Monitor the City of Seattle's performance with issues of violence against women.

**Economic Opportunities**

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- Assist in the Seattle Office of Civil Rights efforts to draft administrative rules for Paid Sick Leave and Safe Leave;
- Coordinate with the Small Business Administration Seattle Office and the City of Seattle to host one or more educational workshops supporting entrepreneurship for women;
- Partner with organizations seeking to address the high unemployment of women veterans;
- Monitor opportunities for immigrants and refugees women;
- Support efforts to improve access to safe, affordable housing in Seattle by collaborating with community allies, participating in public conversations, and monitoring city policies, when appropriate.

### **Health Disparities**

- Research and make policy recommendations on the impact of food deserts to recipients of WIC Nutrition assistance.
- Complete report on homeless women's access to health care, create a toolkit of information for Commissioners to use in their advocacy, and present findings to City and regional policymakers.
- Monitor state legislation and City issues important to women's health, including access to reproductive health care services, honesty and transparency in the administration of health care services, and continued funding for low-income women's access to health care.
- Continue efforts to pass legislation creating local enforcement of discrimination claims based on breastfeeding in public accommodations
- Continue addressing disproportionately high rates of infant mortality in the Native American and African American communities by continuing leadership role on Equal Start Community Coalition.

### **Special Project: Affordable Childcare**

The commission is also planning to work on a special project focusing on affordable child care. In 2012 the Commission is dedicating at least 50% of meetings to hearing from childcare experts on the forces driving child care costs, the costs and impact of universal child care, and alternative systems currently in use. The Commission will promote an open discussion of flex schedules and evening and in-home care and address possible City policies which would further the goal of making child care more affordable. The Commission preparing to advance childcare policy in the future in response to frequent concerns raised both by women in the community, and community organizations advocating for women's rights.

### **Other issues:**

- Landlord-tenant inspection ordinance: SWC has voted to support the proposed "Healthy Homes Ordinance", because mold and other inspection-related components are linked to infant health issues and disproportionately impact women and communities of color.
- SWC would like the City to pass a local ordinance that echoes Washington State's proposed Fair Tenant Screening Bill (SSB 6315), which would provide some housing protections to domestic violence survivors and reduce the cost of tenant screening reports.